

### Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1400 South 19<sup>th</sup> Bozeman, MT 59718

July 11, 2001

To: Governor's Office, Todd O'Hair, Room 204, State Capital, POB 200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801 Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Room 106, POB 201704, Helena, MT 59620 Dept. Environmental Quality, Metcalf Building, POB 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901 Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Director's Office

Legal Unit

Dennis Flath

**FWP** Commissioners

Wildlife Division

MT Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, POB 201202, Helena, MT 59620-1201

MT State Parks Association, POB 699, Billings, MT 59103

MT State Library, 1515 E. Sixth Ave., POB 201800, Helena, MT59620

James Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, POB 1184, Helena, MT 59624

Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, POB 595, Helena, MT59624

George Ochenski, POB 689, Helena, MT 59624

Beaverhead County Commissioners, 2 Pacific, Dillon, MT 59725

Jerry DiMarco, POB 1571, Bozeman, MT 59771

Wildlife Federation, POB 1175, Helena, MT 59624

Wayne Hurst, POB 728, Libby, MT 59923

Glen Hockett, 745 Doane Road, Bozeman, MT 59715

Tom Sather, Headwaters Fish & Game Association, POB 1941, Bozeman, MT 59771-1941

Perry Backus, 65 Redtail, Dillon, MT 59725

Beaverhead Outdoors Association, POB 1401, Dillon, MT 59725

John Gatchell, Montana Wilderness Association, Box 635, Helena, MT 59624

Public Lands Access Association, William Fairhurst, Box 247, Three Forks, MT 59752

Jack Atcheson, State Lands Coalition, 3210 Ottowa Street, Butte, MT 59701

Skyline Sportsman's Association, POB 173, Butte, MT 59701

Anaconda Sportsman's Club, #2 Cherry, Anaconda, MT 59711

Jefferson Valley Sportsman's Association, POB 663, Whitehall, MT 59759

Prickly Pear Sportsman's Association, 1721 Virginia Dale St., Helena, MT 59601

Maynard Smith General Delivery, Glen, MT 59732

Dave Stewart, Glen, MT 59732

Fred Stewart, Glen, MT 59732

Bill Garrison, Glen, MT 59732

Gunner Kalsta, Glen, MT 59732

Frank Kambich, Glen, MT 59732

Tom Kambich Glen, MT 59732

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Hagenbarth Shooting Preserve is located in Beaverhead County, 22 miles north of Dillon, Montana near the small town of Glen. It is planned to release ring-necked pheasant and partridge into existing habitats that encompass 958 acres of private property belonging to Hagenbarth Livestock. This habitat includes wetlands, cropland, and rangelands.

The comment period will be for 21-days, beginning July 11, 2001 and ending at 5:00 p.m. August 1, 2001. Written comments can be sent to Gary Hammond, Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 3600 Antelope Drive, Dillon, MT 59725 or e-mail: <a href="mailto:deerelk1@bmt.net">deerelk1@bmt.net</a>

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Flowers Regional Supervisor



## MEPA/NEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST

# PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

- 1. Type of Proposed State Action <u>Issue Shooting Preserve Permit</u>
- 2. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- 3. Name of Project Hagenbarth Shooting Preserve
- 4. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor (if other than the agency)

James F. Hagenbarth Hagenbarth Livestock P.O. Box 1128 Dillon, MT 59725

5. If Applicable:

Estimated Construction/Commencement Date Pheasant, Partridge – Transplanted Summer 2001

Estimated Completion Date Summer 2001

Current Status of Project Design (% complete) Project involves release of aforementioned birds into existing habitats

6. Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range and township)

Beaverhead County, T4S R9W, Sec. 3 (265 ac.), Sec. 10 (484 ac.), Sec. 15 (209 ac.)

7. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:

Acres		Acres
(a) Developed:	(d) Floodplain	
Residential		
Industrial	(e) Productive:	
	irrigated cropland	400
(b) Open Space/Woodlands/Recreation	dry cropland	
	forestry	
(c) Wetlands/Riparian Areas 523	rangeland	35
	other	

8.	recent USGS 7.5 boundaries of the different map sca	tach an original 8 1/2" x 11" or larger section of the most 5' series topographic map showing the location and e area that would be affected by the proposed action. A le may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by railable, a site plan should also be attached.
9.	Listing of any oth additional jurisdic	ner Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or ction.
(a)	Permits:	
Agen	cy Name	Permit Date Filed/#
N/A		
(b)	Funding:	
Agen	cy Name	Funding Amount
N/A		
(c)	Other Overlapping	or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:
Agen	cy Name	Type of Responsibility
N/A		
10.		ry of the proposed action or project including the benefits ne proposed action:
	partridge, and Hun landowner by priva	on involves the release of ring-necked pheasant, chukar agarian partridge. Additional revenue may be generated to the ate funds, as bird hunters participate in fee hunting for the sting farm/ranch practices will be substantially maintained.
11.	List of agencies of	consulted during preparation of the EA:

N/A

## PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Evaluation of the impacts of the Proposed Action including secondary and cumulative impacts on the Physical and Human Environment.

#### PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT A.

A LAND DESCRIPCES		IMP	ACT *			
1. LAND RESOURCES Will the proposed action result in:	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
a. **Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil, which would reduce productivity or fertility?		×				
c. **Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		x				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				
f. Other:					ditional pages	f warmeting if

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

O. AID		IMP	ACT *			
AIR  Will the proposed action result in:	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
a. **Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see 13 (c))		×				
b. Creation of objectionable odors?		Х				
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns, or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		х				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e. ***For P-R/D-J projects, will the project result in any discharge, which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a)		Х				
f. Other:			A: B	/A44bd	ditional nages of	f narrative if

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Air Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

\*\*\*\* Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

Determine whether the described impact may result, and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

3. WATER		IMF	PACT *		Can	
Will the proposed action result in:	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant	Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
a. *Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?		Х				
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		Х				
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of floodwater or other flows?		Х				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		Х				
Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		Х	,			
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		Х				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		Х				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		Х				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		Х				
l. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c)		Х				
m. ***For P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a)		Х				
n. Other:						

Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Determine whether the described impact may result, and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

<sup>\*\*\*\*</sup> Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

		IMP	ACT *			~
4. <u>VEGETATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?		Х				
b. Alteration of a plant community?		X				
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		Х				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		×				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?		Х				
f. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?		Х				
g. Other:				rees (Attach ad	Little and a second	f marmative if

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Determine whether the described impact may result, and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

** 5 FISH/WILDLIFE		IMP				
Will the proposed action result in:	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		Х				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?			×			See 5b. below
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?			×			See 5c. below
d. Introduction of new species into an area?			X			See 5d. below
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		×				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?			Х			See 5f. below
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?			Х			See 5g. below
h. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f)			Х			See 5h. below
i. ***For P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d)			Х			See 5i. Below
j. Other:						

- 5b. While there has been a minimal pheasant population historically, there are very few at present. The introduction of chukar to the area would add that species to existing upland bird species composition. A chukar introduction was attempted a number of years ago by FWP, but was unsuccessful. If the chukar transplant were successful, we would not envision any competition with existing game species. Potential competition with neo-tropical migrants is unknown.
- 5c. Additional shooting may startle some nongame species. The effect is expected to be temporary with no long-term effect.
- 5d. The issuance of this permit will result in the introduction of chukar in the area. From previous release data, it is our opinion that these birds cannot overwinter in the area and that chukars will not establish a resident population.
- 5f. & h. Bald eagles have occasionally been seen in the area. They may be startled by gunfire, but the effect should be temporary. The release of more easily caught hatchery birds may supply additional eagle food.
- 5g. Local pheasants may be displaced or occasionally shot on the preserve. State law mandates that only 80% of the released birds may be harvested. The release of the extra birds is designed to mitigate the occasional loss of native birds.
- 5i. Chukars will be introduced.
  - Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.
  - Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).
  - Determine whether the described impact may result, and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
  - Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

#### **HUMAN ENVIRONMENT** B.

6. NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS		IMI	PACT *			-
Will the proposed action result in:	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Commer*
a. Increases in existing noise levels?		Х				
b. Exposure of people to serve or nuisance noise levels?		Х				
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		Х				
e. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

7 LAND HEE		IMF	PACT *			
7. LAND USE Will the proposed action result in:	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		Х				
b. Conflicted with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		х				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		х				
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		Х	-			
e. Other:				rcos (Attach add	litianal nagge	of parrative if

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Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

Determine whether the described impact may result, and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

8. RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS		IME	PACT *		0	
Will the proposed action result in:	.Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?		Х				3
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create a need for a new plan?		×				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		Х				
d. ***For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)			X			See 8d. below
e. Other:				i.		

8d. Approved herbicides will continue to be used for noxious weed control.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT		IMF	PACT *			
Will the proposed action result in:	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		Х				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		×				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		×				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		Х				
Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		Х				
f. Other:				/A44hd-	liti a mal manna a	f parretive if

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

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Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

Determine whether the described impact may result, and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts. Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

10. PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES		IMI	PACT *			
Will the proposed action result in:	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify:			х			See 10a. below
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		Х				
d. Will the proposed action result in increased use of any energy source?		X				
e. **Define projected revenue sources			Х	÷		See 10e. below
f. **Define projected maintenance costs.		Х				
g. Other:				Attach add	litianal magazi	f parrative if

10a. Additional demand for law enforcement may be required, as hunting trespass may potentially occur.

10e. Additional revenue may be provided to the landowner by private funds, as bird hunters participate in fee hunting for th species listed.

Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

Determine whether the described impact may result, and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

** 11. AESTHETICS/RECREATION Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		×			-	
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		Х				
c. **Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report.)			Х			See 11c. below
d. ***For P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c)		×				
e. Other				- Attack add		

11c. Recreational opportunities will decrease on the private property involved for the general, non-paying public, but hunting opportunities for the paying segment of the hunting constituency will be enhanced by this project. There may be spillover of these species onto nearby public lands, which could afford additional hunting opportunities for the public.

12. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES	IMPACT *					
Will the proposed action result in:	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
a. **Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?		х				
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		Х				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		×				
d. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach SHPO letter of clearance. (Also see 12.a)		X				
e. Other:			l d D	(Attack ada	litional pages of	of parrative if

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

Determine whether the described impact may result, and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

### SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE	IMPACT *					
Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources that create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects, which are uncertain but extremely hazardous, if they were to occur?		Х				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		Х				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		Х		,		
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?			Х			See 13e. below
f. ***For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e)		Х				
g. ****For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.		Х			l'al-	f normative if

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

13e. Any time recreation opportunities are changed from one that may have been open without charge to fee hunting, losportsmen may not see this as a favorable action. However, all recognize that the project will occur on private land, over which the private landowner has control.

\*\* Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

\*\*\*\* Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Determine whether the described impact may result, and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

## PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW, CONTINUED

2. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider, and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:

Alternative 1 – Issue permit with no conditions.

Alternative 2 – Issue permit with conditions.

Alternative 3 – (No action alternative) deny permit.

3. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:

None

### PART IV. EA CONCLUSION SECTION

1. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required (YES/NO)? If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action.

Since the project will not involve alteration of the existing farm/ranch operation, the only substantial change will involve leaving unharvested grain standing adjacent to cover. Therefore, this EA is the appropriate level of review.

2. Describe the level of public involvement for this project, if any, and given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances?

The issuing of a shooting preserve permit will only change the length of the season from approximately seven weeks to seven months. There will be no construction or other physical alteration of the property involved. The shooting preserve will be well inside the exterior boundaries of private property. It is felt that the issuance of this permit will have little, if any, impact on the general public.

3. Duration of comment period, if any.

The comment period will be for 21 days, starting July 11, 2001, until 5:00 p.m. August 1, 2001. Written comments can be sent to Gary Hammond, Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 3600 Antelope Drive, Dillon, MT 59725 or e-mail: <a href="mailto:deerelk1@bmt.net">deerelk1@bmt.net</a>

4. Name, title, address and phone number of the person(s) responsible for preparing the EA:

Gary Hammond, Wildlife Biologist Jon Hoerning Fish, Wildlife & Parks 3600 Antelope Drive Dillon, MT 59725 406-683-9305

